

## Innovation and Technology

### **October 2009**

Innovation, technology development and deployment, and entrepreneurship are critical to promoting growth and job creation. In recognition of this, the Framework specified a number of areas for U.S. and EU collaboration to promote innovation. The TEC today agreed to take a number of steps to enhance this collaboration, including establishing a new Innovation Dialogue. The new Dialogue will be co-chaired by senior officials from the Department of Commerce, DG Enterprise. It will monitor and seek to accelerate progress on a wide range of collaborative innovation activities. Possible topics for discussion include in the areas of innovation policy, health information technology, information and communication technologies, and clean energy technologies products. In the period before the next TEC meeting, the United States government and the European Commission will conduct joint stakeholder outreach, complete the assessment of priority projects, and agree on a work program for the Innovation Dialogue.

In other areas, the United States and the EU made strides in 2009 in our cooperation on e-accessibility standards, RFID, and e-health.

-- Our discussions on e-accessibility continue to proceed well. The European Commission will soon focus on Phase II of the mandate (M376) to European Standards Organisations to develop a European Standard (EN) on functional accessibility requirements for the public procurement of information and communication technology products and services. U.S. participation in the European work will help foster harmonization with the revised U.S. standards. The U.S. revision of the accessibility standards of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act will soon be circulated for public comment. The EU participated in preparation of these texts, and European stakeholders are invited to actively contribute comments. Next steps in the dialogue are expected to be taken at the beginning of next year, when both activities will be operational.

-- On RFID, the Commission issued a recommendation in May 2009 on the implementation of privacy and data protection principles in RFID-supported applications, which took into account U.S. government input. In addition, the United States and the EU held a networking day on U.S.-EU RFID pilot projects as well as the Second Transatlantic Symposium on the Societal Benefits of RFID in May.

-- On e-health, the United States and the EU are engaged in dialogue aimed at promoting improved health and care through the effective use of interoperable health information technology and the secure exchange of electronic health information.

### **December 2008**

E-accessibility: U.S. Government and industry representatives are participating in the European Standards Organization's process to develop accessibility requirements for the public purchase of information and communications technology products and services.

Radio Frequency Identification Technologies (RFID): In September 2008, the U.S. Department of Commerce supported a Transatlantic Symposium on the Societal Benefits of RFID, and the

U.S. Federal Trade Commission held a Transatlantic RFID Workshop on Consumer Privacy and Data Security. During the Symposium, the United States and the European Commission agreed to endorse the OECD policy principles on RFID as a basis for best practices for the public and private sectors. They also announced a joint pilot project for tracking radioactive isotopes, and they proposed to explore and pursue other pilot projects. The European Commission is planning to organize a similar symposium in Brussels in Spring 2009.

### **May 2008**

Under the auspices of the EC-U.S. Task-Force on Biotechnology Research, a working group on bio-based products was established and several EC-U.S. scientific workshops paved the way to the identification of three joint research priorities related to innovative and eco-efficient bio-based products: plant cell walls in relation to bio-refining; plant oils as industrial feedstock; and biopolymers. The research projects selected in 2008 to address these priorities under the EC Research Framework Programme have a strong involvement of U.S. partners. The November 2007 TEC meeting resulted in a commitment for the United States and EU to work together to improve international enforcement in the fight against fraud and illegal spam and spyware in light of the enactment of the Undertaking Spam, Spyware and Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers Beyond Borders Act of 2006 (the “U.S. SAFE WEB Act”) and the adoption of Regulation (EC) No. 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. U.S. and EU officials have since begun developing a mutual assistance agreement on the enforcement of consumer protection laws. The U.S. and EU have agreed to undertake the development of a joint pilot project involving the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to track radioactive isotopes and to explore a second joint pilot project on postal bag tracking. The U.S. and EU will hold a joint symposium on the societal benefits of RFID, together with a workshop on RFID and privacy, in September 2008.

In December 2007, the U.S. and EU conducted an exchange of innovation experts on the mechanisms by which energy and sustainability are driving innovation within the European Union.

### **November 2007**

The U.S. government and the European Commission have

- conducted a high-level conference on innovation in health-related industries and a workshop on best practices in innovation policies; and
- continued their work in relation to nanotechnology in the OECD and other bilateral and multilateral venues; a multilateral dialogue has now also started regarding the use of nanomaterials in medical products and cosmetics.